



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

Amber Bales, President  
Joyce McConeghey Vice President  
Kathleen Kearney, Board Member (arrived 6:35)  
Cynthia Silva, Board Member

Absent: Dorothy Wismar, Vice President

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director  
Lori Amaya, Recording Secretary

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA (Public Comment)**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

An asterisk indicates items so enacted or approved on the Consent Calendar

- \*A. Report from the Library Director Highlighting Activities for the Months of July and August, 2021.
- \*B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of July 14, 2021.
- \*C. Modified Library Services Report for the Month of June and July, 2021.
- \*D. Financial Report Reflecting FY21/22 Expenditures by Fund for July and August, 2021.
- \*E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of July and August, 2021.

Director Chisaki reported that all three libraries are open at pre-COVID hours. Physical distancing and masks are required. Adult and Teen programs are scheduled to start in September. Children's programs are not starting yet, but there are plenty of virtual programs and story times. The café will likely open in January. The LED lighting project is complete and paid for. The library is much brighter, especially in the copier alcove. The project will pay for itself in 3.5 years. The

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National Park Service Grant is slowly moving forward. The Japantown Historical Marker Project is ready to unveil the mockup of the markers. Rhythmix Cultural Works is scheduled to do an artwalk event on Friday, September 17. There will be a celebration once the markers are finished in Spring 2022. Alameda Reads has been moving forward with the literacy program while their building is closed. Vice President McConeghey commented that the Japantown Historical Marker artwalk event will be on the front page of the Alameda Sun that week.

There are no changes to the Draft Minutes of the July 14, 2021 Library Board meeting.

The library's WiFi has changed, so the numbers reported are lower, but more accurate. The door count numbers are almost back to normal.

Vice President McConeghey moved to accept the Consent Calendar. President Bales seconded the motion, which passed with a 3-0 vote.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Status of New Library Board Members (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki introduced the two nominees for the Library Board. They will be sworn in by the November meeting. Board Member Nominees Strickler and Kanji shared that they are excited and looking forward to working with the Board.

B. Current and On-Going Library Activities (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki shared that the library is waiting to see what is happening with the Delta variant before deciding to put the furniture back. It is not clear how long Zoom meetings will continue. All boards and commissions will take the lead from the City Council. An extension to the Order may be signed to extend the ability for boards and commissions to continue Zoom meetings.

C. American Rescue Plan Funding – Hotspot Lending Program (J. Chisaki)

The library is looking at a couple vendors to get the Hotspots, and collecting policies to look at what other libraries are doing for their hotspot lending programs. The program will start small and expand if necessary.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A. Friends of the Library (J. Chisaki)

The Friends are continuing with virtual meeting until the end of December. They are considering doing a hybrid format for some of their art docent programs. Their programs have been drawing 200- 300 people. The Friends have missed three of their big O'Club book sales. Two book sales usually bring in approximately \$40,000-\$45,000. Without the sales, the Library is asking for more

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money than the Friends bring in. They are working on converting their book sorting room to a bookstore. There are over 1,000 boxes of books waiting for the next book sale.

**B. Patron Suggestions/Comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's Response**

The first was a compliment to two staff members, Brian and Peter. They were a great help to get work done before computer system shut down for the day. They were very courteous and professional.

The second was a compliment that said everyone is helpful and knows the library well. Especially the Reference staff, and Rosemary is the best.

**LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

Vice President McConeghey attended many of the Friends Zoom programs and she is impressed. Board Member Kearney agrees and continues to spread the word about all the good things the Friends are doing. President Bales attended the Wangechi Mutu talk and is enjoying all the other art docent talks. President Bales was surprised by the Friends' August 8 newsletter that included a section about a local blogger that discussed repurposing the vacant Carnegie Library building for housing. Director Chisaki explained that the building would not be suited for housing and would take a lot of renovations to bring it up to today's standards.

**DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

The City Manager gave shout out to the Library saying all three locations are open again. He appreciates staff getting all three libraries open back to their pre-COVID hours. He also thanked the staff for providing library services throughout the pandemic. Director Chisaki has conveyed that to the staff.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA GENERAL**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Chisaki, Library Director and  
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board